

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0003] beginning on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

In order to prevent such a rim slip, the bead portion is commonly shaped to have a larger interference which is defined as the amount of compression of the tire bead base in a radial direction of the tire when mounted on a rim~~the difference of the distances along the tire radial direction between the bottom of the bead core and the bead base measured before and after mounting on the rim~~. With such a shape, the rubber element of the bead portion is compressed and elastically deformed to increase the contact pressure between the tire and rim when the tire is mounted on the rim. The rubber element is, however, deformed toward the radially outward direction since the bead heel is restricted its deformation in the width direction by the rim flange, whereas the metal element such as a wire chafer and a carcass is hardly deformed in both width and radial directions since it is secured by the bead core. Thus, when the interference of the overall bead base is uniformly increased, a larger shearing strain occurs between the rubber and metal elements to incur a problem that separations are easily caused in the bead heel.

Please replace paragraph [0009] beginning on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

As used herein, the term “generally along the tire width direction” refer to a direction that extends within a range of 0-20 degrees, and preferably 0-10 degrees in relative to the tire width direction. The term “interference” refers to the amount of compression of the tire bead base in a radial direction of the tire when mounted on a rim~~a difference in distances between the bottom of the bead core and the bead base along the tire radial direction measured~~

~~before and after mounting the bead portion on the rim.~~ The terms “standard rim” refers to a standard rim (or a approved rim or a recommended rim) specified in an industrial specification, standard or the like such as JATMA, TRA and ETRTO which are effective in the region where the tire is manufactured, sold or used.